Encouraging non-conventional energy sources

3097. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generated through non-conventional energy sources in India is very low as compared to other nations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any plans to encourage non-conventional energy sources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Over 8000 MW grid-interactive renewable power generation capacity has been set up in the country as on 31.03.2006. Already, the country is fourth in the world in the installation of wind power aggregating around 5310 MW.

(c) and (d) The aim is to establish around 10 per cent power generation capactiy through renewable power during the 10th and 11th Plan periods, corresponding to 10,000 MW. During the first four years of the 10th Plan period 4650 MW renewable power generation capacity has been added whereby the target of 3075 M W for the entire 10th Plan period has already been exceeded by as much as 50 per cent. To encourage investment in renewable power, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided which include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation and concessional taxes & duties. In addition, preferential tariff is being given to renewable power in most potential states.

Cost of solar energy

3097. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of solar energy generation in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to reduce the high cost of solar energy and make it more viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A total of 32 grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plants have . been installed in the country with financial support from the Government.